

What is claimed is:

1. A method of blocking an immune response to a foreign antigen in a mammal, wherein the mammal is not suffering from a malignancy, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist which binds to CD20.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the antagonist comprises an antibody.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the foreign antigen comprises a therapeutic agent.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the foreign antigen is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, a toxin, a gene therapy viral vector, a graft, an infectious agent, and an alloantigen.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the mammal is human.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein the antibody is not conjugated with a cytotoxic agent.
7. The method of claim 2 wherein the antibody comprises rituximab (RITUXAN®).
8. The method of claim 2 wherein the antibody is conjugated with a cytotoxic agent.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein the cytotoxic agent is a radioactive compound.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the antibody comprises Y2B8 or ¹³¹I-B1 (BEXXAR™).
11. The method of claim 1 comprising administering the antagonist intravenously.

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12. The method of claim 1 comprising administering the antagonist subcutaneously.
13. The method of claim 2 comprising administering a dose of substantially less than 375mg/m² of the antibody to the mammal.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the dose is in the range from about 20mg/m² to about 250mg/m².
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the dose is in the range from about 50mg/m² to about 200mg/m².
16. The method of claim 2 comprising administering an initial dose of the antibody followed by a subsequent dose, wherein the mg/m² dose of the antibody in the subsequent dose exceeds the mg/m² dose of the antibody in the initial dose.
17. The method of claim 4 wherein the foreign antigen is an antibody.
18. The method of claim 17 wherein the antibody is a murine antibody.
19. The method of claim 4 wherein the foreign antigen is a gene therapy viral vector.
20. The method of claim 4 wherein the foreign antigen is a graft.
21. The method of claim 4 wherein the foreign antigen is an alloantigen.
22. The method of claim 1 comprising administering the antagonist to the mammal before the mammal is exposed to the foreign antigen.

23. The method of claim 22 wherein the foreign antigen comprises a graft.
- ✓ 24. A method of treating a mammal comprising administering a therapeutic agent, other than an antagonist which binds to CD20, to the mammal and further comprising administering an antagonist which binds to CD20 to the mammal, wherein the therapeutic agent is immunogenic in the mammal and the antagonist blocks an immune response to the therapeutic agent in the mammal.
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- 10 25. The method of claim 24 comprising administering the therapeutic agent and the antagonist essentially simultaneously to the mammal.
26. The method of claim 24 comprising administering the antagonist to the mammal prior to the therapeutic agent.
- 15 27. The method of claim 24 comprising administering the therapeutic agent to the mammal prior to the antagonist.
- 20 28. A method of treating graft-versus-host or host-versus-graft disease in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist which binds to CD20.
- ✓ 29. A method of desensitizing a mammal ~~awaiting transplantation comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of an antagonist which binds to CD20.~~
- 25 ✓ 30. An article of manufacture comprising a container and a composition contained therein, wherein the composition comprises an antagonist which binds to CD20, and further comprising a package insert instructing the user of the composition to treat a patient who has been or will be exposed to a foreign antigen.

31. The article of manufacture of claim 30 further comprising a second container and a second composition contained therein, wherein the second composition comprises a therapeutic agent.